

EO 13101 Quarterly Teleconference

DOE's Fiscal Year 2001 Purchasing Results Fiscal Year 2001 Problem Products Buy Bio Program Center for American Dream Conference

Teleconference Workshop on Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition May 23, 2001, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Daylight Savings Time

PARTICIPANTS:

ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE: Charlie Henn, Teresa Loschke, Dave, Ernie
Kansas City Plant: Bob Beauchamp (Honeywell, FM&T)
Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL): Eleanor Chapman

CHICAGO OPERATIONS OFFICE:

Argonne National Laboratory (ANL): Tom Snyder
Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL): Cheryl Eleazer
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL): Tom McGeachen

FOSSIL ENERGY:

National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL): Deborah Boggs, Bruce Webster
Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR): Teresa Heaton, Joyce Francois

HEADQUARTERS (HQ): Susan Weber, Connie Haga (SAIC)

Yucca Mountain Characterization Project: Lee Bishop, Brenda Bowlby, Delane Fitzpatrick-Maul,
Randy Nash

IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE:

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL): David Janke, Heather Merrill

NAVAL REACTORS:

Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory: Tony Denapoli, Greg Sawl
Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory: Steve Therrien

OAKLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE: Karin King

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL): Kent Wilson
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC): Pamela Wright-Brunache

OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS OFFICE: Richard Martin, Ana Gonzalez

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL): Mac Roddye, David Wasserman

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP): Brian Bowers
Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF): Linda Even

Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12): Stephanie Chandler, Jan Gilbert, Paula Kirk, Anne Ostergaard

OHIO FIELD OFFICE: Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP): Phil Spatz

RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE: Oscar Holgado, Geneva Ellis-Balone, Jenise Connerly

Hanford Site: Kathy Hinkelman, Judith Nielson, Julie Stitt, Paul Stone, Paul von der Mehden
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL): Sandra Cannon (EO 13101 Coordinator), Kim Fowler

ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE: Doug Schlagel

Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS): Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS): Tamar Krantz

OFEE: Dana Arnold

Utility Solid Waste Action Group: Jim Roewer, Debbie Hassett

11:10 Greeting and introductions - Susan Weber, DOE-HQ EO 13101 Manager

Susan Weber introduced herself as the Program Manager for Executive Order 13101 efforts, and explained the evolution of the program from strictly Affirmative Procurement (buying items designated by EPA with recovered content) to Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, a much broader list of products that includes biobased products. New developments with regards to purchasing biobased products are addressed in the teleconference.

Susan reminded everyone that the meeting minutes for the call would be prepared and posted on the Affirmative Procurement Web site. In addition, an index of all of the teleconference meeting minutes is currently being prepared, and will be posted on the Web site when these meeting minutes are posted.

Susan said that the next conference call, scheduled to be held in September, would address the transition of the program from DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) to the Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH).

11:15 Report our FY 2001 purchasing results, the top 9 products we spent the most money on (over \$1M each), and the products we purchased most successfully - Susan Weber

DOE's overall Affirmative Procurement Purchasing results for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 are currently posted on the Web site, along with site-specific performance data. In FY 2001, DOE purchased \$36 million of EPA-designated items; \$25 million of this total had recycled content (69 percent). Allowing for exemptions, (i.e., where items with recycled content were not purchased due to availability, price, or performance issues) DOE's performance increases to 87 percent. Susan congratulated the sites on their performance for FY 2001, and reminded everyone that the goal is 100 percent, so there is room for improvement.

Nine items were purchased in amounts greater than \$1 million. For four of those items, DOE spent less than 75 percent of its dollars purchasing the items with recycled content. Two of those items we will address today (cement/concrete and carpet), and the others (industrial drums and binders) we will address in a future teleconference.

Susan also indicated that while the sites are currently reporting on 54 items, a proposal has been developed to limit reporting to eight indicator items, to reduce the sites' reporting burden. This proposal would apply for all Federal agencies, not just DOE. The sites would be informed of the indicator items well in advance of the required reporting period. The sites could put awareness/training, purchasing, and tracking procedures in place for these items, and the indicator items would change approximately every two years. Note that all designated EPA items are still required to be purchased with recovered content, but only the indicator items would be reported. To assure Congress that all items are still being purchased, additional questions on training and self-auditing would be added to the reporting requirements.

11:20 Comments from sites Tom McGeachen (PPPL) said that environmentally preferable purchasing,

including affirmative procurement, is a performance metric for his site. Therefore, despite the reduced reporting requirements outlined in the proposal, PPPL would need to report on all items internally. Susan noted that although sites may have various internal reporting requirements, for reporting to Headquarters, they would only be required to report on the eight indicators items, plus the training and self-auditing questions.

Geneva Ellis-Balone (Richland Operations Office) said that for her site the same amount of work would still be still required, because the site must still collect data for all the items with recovered content. Susan Weber (HQ) stressed that the proposal's goal was to minimize reporting, so that sites could spend more resources on actually buying the required items. Susan also reiterated that the proposed reporting requirements would apply to all Federal agencies, not just DOE.

Kent Wilson (LLNL) said that the proposal will significantly reduce his site's reporting burden, as purchasing is decentralized at Lawrence Livermore. Susan stressed that sites must still buy all designated items with recycled content.

11:25 Concrete - Jim Roewer and Debbie Hassett(Utility Solid Waste Activities Group - USWAG)

Jim Roewer said that his organization was involved in the designation of cement with fly ash as a required Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) item. Jim introduced Debbie Hassett as an expert on concrete with fly ash. USWAG supported and provided input to the EPA in developing the CPG framework. USWAG's goal is to increase the beneficial use/reuse of products, such as cement made with coal fly ash. Current reuse of fly ash is 30 percent. Mr. Roewer noted that there are other CPG items made with coal fly ash, such as parking stops, railroad grade crossing surfaces, and flowable fill.

Mr. Roewer addressed why the EPA felt comfortable establishing the CPG designation for cement and concrete. He said that the cement and concrete industry possessed decades of experience, starting in 1914, with using coal fly ash as a supplement in Portland cement, including research showing that the fly ash improves concrete. This experience and research gave EPA the basis for establishing the CPG. Mr. Roewer addressed the naturally occurring radioactive materials in cement with coal fly ash and blast furnace slag. He pointed out that there are very low levels of radioactivity, which should not be an issue in terms of use of the product. Blast furnace slag may have lower radioactivity than coal ash.

Mr. Roewer addressed the leaching of heavy metals from cement with fly ash or slag. Again, Mr. Roewer said that levels are very low. Encapsulation, including encapsulation with cement, is an approved treatment method for hazardous waste with metals as constituents, therefore heavy metals should not leach out of cement with coal fly ash. Heavy metal levels are very low, and would be further prohibited from leaching by encapsulation. The fly ash is finer than cement and spherical; this creates a tighter mix to reduce permeability. Chemically, the fly ash is involved in a reaction in the cementing process that binds the metals into the cement.

The last issue that Mr. Roewer addressed was alkali-silica reactivity between the coal fly ash and aggregates in the cement mixture. Even if the cement/concrete mixture contains no fly ash, the site should perform an analysis to make sure that the cement/concrete would not be degraded by the reactivity; the use of cement with fly ash shouldn't trigger any additional testing. The potential for reactivity can often be predicted based on the characteristics of the cement mix. Some aggregates will tend to increase the potential for reactivity. Fly ash can influence reactivity in three ways: it can have no effect; it can improve cement performance (decrease reactivity); or it can increase reactivity. Performing an empirical test using the actual cement/aggregate mixture is the best way to determine the potential for alkali-silica reactivity.

11:40 Questions on cement/concrete

Oscar Holgado (Richland Operations Office) asked about the circumstances behind fly ash being exempt from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Mr. Roewer said the fly ash received an initial exemption from RCRA pending an EPA study. The study results have been released and show that ash rarely exhibits the characteristics of hazardous waste, and shouldn't be regulated as such; therefore, the exemption is still in effect. EPA encourages the beneficial reuse of coal fly ash.

Kim Fowler (PNNL) had a question about the availability of cement/concrete with coal fly ash. Cement can be made with either Class C or Class F fly ash. The fly ash class is based on the type of coal that is burned. Burning Western coals produces Class C ash. Class C is the favored type of ash, although Class F ash can still be used. The fly ash should be available through power plants in the West and Midwest, including Idaho, which has several plants in the state. Transportation issues also affect the availability of cement with fly ash.

A list of fly ash and blast furnace slag providers is attached to these meeting minutes. Note that sites should work with their cement/concrete providers to ensure that the providers obtain fly ash and blast furnace slag, if available.

Oscar Holgado (Richland Operations Office) suggested that the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) may be a good resource for information.

11:45 Carpet - Tom McGeachen (Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory - PPPL)

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory buys carpet with a minimum of 25 percent recycled content when doing renovations that require carpet. They have experience with commercial grade carpeting with recycled content in the pile. Tom used Shaw carpet with EcoSolution Q solution pile (nylon fiber) for renovating hallways and offices. Tom said that PPPL has not had any problems with the Shaw EcoSolution Q, but advises everyone to choose colors that will hide stains - not light gray or light blue. Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory will also renovate their cafeteria using Mohawk commercial carpet. Mohawk is the second largest commercial manufacturer, and has a good reputation and a large client base. The product that will be used is Infinity Renewable Nylon. This is a commercial grade nylon product; Tom advises against using polyester products, as these products are more for residential applications. The nylon product is wear- and fade-resistant. The nylon pile in the product is 100 percent recycled content. In addition to purchasing the recycled content carpet, the current cafeteria carpeting will be sent to a recycling facility in Augusta, Georgia. For more details, see the information attached to these meeting minutes, or contact Tom at 609-243-2948 or tmcgeach@pppl.gov.

11:55 Questions on carpet

Tom (PPPL) responded to questions regrading comparisons with virgin carpet products. Tom said that price differences are not significant; in many cases the recycled content product is priced the same or less than the virgin product. He has seen lots of improvement in this area in the last three to five years, due to increased manufacturing of recycled content carpet. There are no color differences between the virgin and recycled content product.

Ernie (Albuquerque Operations Office) asked about warranties on the recycled content carpet and the types of carpeting available. Tom believes that the warranty for a recycled content carpet product is the same as for a virgin product. Mohawk has carpet squares or broadloom carpet available. Shaw has broadloom and tile. If using Mohawk, choose the Infinity product versus the recycled coke bottle product, which is a polyester product and has problems with seams unraveling.

Teresa Loschke (Albuquerque Operations Office) asked about availability. Tom did not think there would be a problem; Shaw has a lot of local distributors. Shaw is also available through the GSA Schedule.

PPPL is also purchasing raised access flooring from Tate Access Floors for computer room renovations, with carpet tile squares included that contain recycled solution dyed nylon (67%) and BASF Zeftron solution dyed nylon (33%). These days many sites want to avoid using hard flooring surfaces for computer room flooring because of the noise generation. However, sites need to make sure that the chosen carpet surface for the computer room has the proper electrostatic rating and recycled content.

12:05 Buy Bio Program - Tom Snyder (Argonne National Laboratory)

President Bush recently signed the Farm Bill that has provisions for buying biobased products. Although DOE and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have been working to promote bioenergy and biobased products under Executive Order 13101, the Executive Order does not require mandatory buying

of these products. The Farm Bill requires Federal purchasing of biobased products designated by the USDA. Product guidelines will be promulgated through Federal agency working groups.

Title 9 (Energy Section) of the Farm Bill can be found at www.usda.gov/farmbill/energy_fb.html. Similar to CPG items, there is an agency wide reporting threshold of \$10,000, and exemptions for availability, price and performance issues. Other exemptions are paper and any material subject to the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

By Nov 13, 2002, the USDA is expected to finalize implementation guidelines; by May 13, 2003, the USDA should publish the list of biobased products that must be purchased; by November 13, 2003, Federal agencies need to develop a purchasing program for the products. Three provisions must be included in the agency's biobased products program: preference, promotion, and monitoring.

12:10 Questions on the Buy Bio Program

Sandra Cannon (PNNL) asked if a list of suppliers would be issued. There are plans for a vendors list to be issued and posted by the USDA. In addition, there will be a separate Web site where vendors can list themselves; note that these vendors may not necessarily be on the list posted by the USDA. Dana Arnold (OFEE) notes that there is a voluntary certification process for vendors, as opposed to the required vendor certification under the Affirmative Procurement Program.

Dana Arnold said that there are 11 product categories of biobased products, including bio-fuels and biobased cleaning products, but biobased-fuels and electricity are not required based on the Farm Bill. It is expected that fuel and electricity will be addressed in the Energy Bill currently pending in Congress.

Tom McGeachen (PPPL) asked if any laboratories use biobased cleaning products. Sandra Cannon (PNNL) said that her laboratory does.

12:15 Key Results of the Center for A New American Dream Conference - Eleanor Chapman (LANL)

The Center for A New American Dream Conference is a non-profit organization that promotes responsible consumption and the conservation of natural resources. The Center holds bimonthly teleconferences on specific environmentally preferable products (EPP).

The organization hosted the North American Conference on Green Purchasing, including government and industry participants. The conference was held at a Green Seal certified hotel in Philadelphia, the Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel, that used green building materials and had recycling baskets in the hotel rooms. The plenary speakers were Tom Ferguson (Perdue AgriRecycle), Michael Marx (Forest Ethics), Ray Anderson (Interface Carpets), and Barry Dimson (Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel). Sessions included using purchasing power to influence the market, and performing life-cycle assessments to assess environmentally preferable products. Eleanor recommended that Green Acquisition Advocates take life-cycle assessment into account when determining what is environmentally preferable. This issue stood out as being an issue that is not considered as often as it should be.

Through the conference Eleanor obtained new information dealing with the many aspects of environmentally preferable purchasing (i.e., how the color of paper affects environmentally preferable purchasing decisions). Eleanor recommends participating in EPPNet (a list serve network of EPP individuals). Listed below are some of the Web sites that Eleanor recommends, and the conference hotel information:

<http://www.nerc.org/eppnet.html> – to join the EPPNET

<http://www.newdream.org/> - The Center For A New American Dream

<http://www.business-ethics.com/web-ethi.htm> - Easy Information about Business Preferability

Procurement Strategies Program

Center for a New American Dream
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 900
Takoma Park, MD 20912301 891-3683
E-mail: scot@newdream.org

Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel

18th at Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
866-597-9330

12:27 Other topics for discussion and date and topics for the next teleconference

Susan Weber (HQ) suggested September 19, 2002 as the date for the next call. No one expressed any issues with this date. However, scheduling problems have arisen since the teleconference, so the next Affirmative Procurement teleconference is currently scheduled for September 26, 2002.

Tom McGeachen (PPPL) suggested purchasing trends for ink jet cartridges and toner cartridges as a topic for the next teleconference.

12:30 Adjourn**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

DOE's "Buying Recycled and Environmentally Preferable Products Program@ website for access to the reporting site, annual report, teleconference agenda and minutes, and sources of helpful information

U.S. Department of Energy's RCRA 6002/Executive Order 13101 home page
<http://www.em.doe.gov/p2/> (select "Programs, Initiatives, & Reporting," then "Buying Green")

PRODUCTS**General Product Information**

Database of product information
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf>

Biobased Products

U.S. Department of Agriculture
<http://usda-biobasedproducts.net/public/>

Energy Efficient Products

Federal Energy Management Program
<http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/procurement/>

Recycled Products and Suppliers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/index.htm>

Used Products - Materials Exchange

(especially chemicals, equipment, and hazardous materials) at other DOE facilities
Log on with user name (erhquser) and password (erhqdoe)

DOE Complex Wide Materials Exchange
<http://wastenot.er.doe.gov/DOEmatex/index.html>

Specific Product Categories

Carpet

Contract Language and Standards/Guidelines
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf/Pages/DisplayAisle.html?Open&Hardware%20Store&Carpet>

Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products/carpet.htm>

Cement/Concrete

Recycled Content Specifications and Suppliers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products/cement.htm>

Cleaning Products

Contract Language and Standards/Guidelines

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf/Pages/DisplayAisle.html?Open&Hardware%20Store&Cleaning%20supplies%20and%20equipment>

Cleaning Products

Decision Making Wizard for

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/cleaners/select/>

Specifications and Process Used at PNNL

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
<http://www.pnl.gov/esp/greenguide/custodialproducts/>

Paint

Results of paint pilot project at Aberdeen Proving Ground

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/pdfs/paint.pdf>

Toner Cartridges

Example of Suppliers of Quality Remanufactured Cartridges

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
http://www.pnl.gov/esp/greenguide/ap_toner.html